

Quick Reads

Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA
Director, Iowa Department of Public Health



IDPH monitors COVID-19

IDPH continues to work with federal, state and local partners to monitor and inform Iowans about the [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#). A modified IMS structure has been implemented at the department level to aid our state-level response. At this time, the general public risk of COVID-19 is low; influenza is a greater concern and IDPH continues to urge Iowans to receive the flu vaccine and remember the [Three Cs](#).



IDPH staff in the IMS gather for a morning briefing.

Wright County EMS featured

The National Rural Health Resource Center featured [Wright County EMS](#) as part of a spotlight on the [Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility \(Flex\) Program](#). With three independent ambulance services, Wright County used the FY2018 supplemental funds to engage and educate their communities about the cost and value of EMS, which resulted in taxpayer approval of funds to offset the annual cost of operation. See a video about their project [here](#).

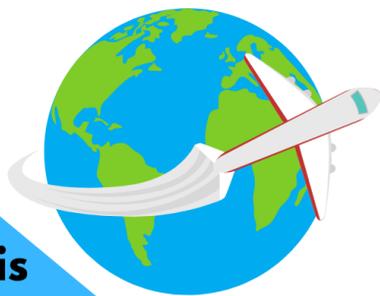
Decatur County on the move

[Decatur County Public Health](#), [Decatur County Hospital](#) and Community Health Centers of Southern Iowa ([CHCSI](#)) are now offering healthcare transportation to county residents. Such transportation was identified as a need during the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. A large conversion van is available free of charge to those needing a ride to their healthcare appointments at one of the three locations (hospital, public health or CHCSI). The van is equipped with a lift for wheelchair accessibility and can accommodate two wheelchairs and up to seven people.



Pictured above: Bob Bell, Decatur County Board of Supervisors & Board of Health, Jeremy Yoder- Van driver, Shirley Kessell -CHCSI Board Chair, Samantha Cannon - CHCSI CEO, Holly Rash - DCPH Administrator, Guy Clark - DCH Board Chair, Tara Spidle - CFO Decatur County Hospital, Julie Palmer - DCPH Outpatient Services, and Mike Johnson - CEO of Decatur County Hospital.

Risk of novel coronavirus is associated with recent travel to China. Not groups of people. Not certain ethnicities.



February 2020

Public health proclamations

Governor Reynolds continues to support public health efforts with state proclamations. The governor recently recognized Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, Radon Action Month and Brain Injury Awareness Month. Upcoming signings will include proclamations for Problem Gambling and Colorectal Cancer Awareness.



Advocates join IDPH staff and Governor Kim Reynolds in recognizing Brain Injury Awareness Month.

IDPH expertise on display

I'd like to thank IDPH staff who have been extremely busy this legislative session providing information on department programs and initiatives. Staff have spoken to a number of legislative committees, outlining the good work that IDPH does in our mission to protect and improve the health of Iowans.



Michelle Holst and the HPCDP prevention team to present on the [1st Five](#) program to the House Human Resources committee.

Share your success

Contribute a news item or smart practice by [email](#). Get IDPH news and information by subscription through [Granicus](#). For IDPH topics, scroll to "Public Health, Iowa Department of."

Quick Reads – February 14, 2020

HIP highlights

In 2019, local public health agencies submitted progress reports on their health improvement plan (HIP) objectives and strategies. Each month, Quick Reads will highlight one county's work.

[Clayton County](#): Hospitals and the county Visiting Nurse Association are working with Integrated Telehealth Partners to provide tele-psychiatry consultations for emergency room patients in crisis. In addition, a subcommittee is collaborating with county social services to identify any additional needs that aren't being met and possible solutions to address them. For more information, see the complete plans and reports on the IDPH [website](#).

IDPH project chosen

The IDPH Bureau of Nutrition and Physical Activity's project, "Going Bold Iowa! Building Public Health Nutrition Capacity Using System Change Frameworks," has been selected by the [National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health](#) for its yearlong cohort. Iowa's project was one of 10 nationally chosen for the cohort.



(L-R): Lyndi Buckingham-Schutt, Associate Director of Wellness and Nutrition Policy, The Harkin Institute, Drake University; IDPH Bureau Chief Jill Lange; Dr. Ed Ehlinger; Erin Berquist, Dietetic Internship/Associate Clinical Professor Iowa State University; and Angie Tagtow, Founder and Chief Strategist, Akta Strategies.

Monthly data snapshot - Emergency dental services for Iowa children down 48% since 2010

Number of Iowa children who received emergency dental and/or oral health services drops 48%



Data source: [Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal](#)

Poor dental health is linked to diabetes and other [chronic diseases](#), and can hinder the ability to speak, eat, learn and work. Untreated cavities are a serious problem in the United States, affecting around 12% of children ages 1 to 17 from 2017-2018. [Untreated cavities](#) that later need emergency treatment nearly doubled nationwide from 2000 to 2010, from 1.1 million to 2.1 million. Seeking early and regular care from a dental professional is more cost effective than from a hospital emergency department. In 2018, 48% fewer Iowa children received emergency dental and/or oral health services than in 2010. Healthy oral behaviors include early and regular dental visits, a diet that avoids sugary foods, using fluoridated water, and brushing and flossing daily. February is [Children's Dental Health Month](#). The [I-Smile](#) program helps kids get dental care. Find more information about oral health [here](#) and [here](#). Send questions or comments about IDPH data [here](#).

Your Life Iowa expands

The [Your Life Iowa](#) website now includes adult and mental health, and children's behavioral health content. The expansion is the result of a partnership between IDPH and the Dept. of Human Services, and a requirement of HF 2456, enacted at the conclusion of the 2018 legislative session, which called for a single statewide 24-hour crisis hotline through the website.

Program champions inclusivity

IDPH is collaborating with the [University of Iowa Center for Disabilities and Development](#), [Easter Seals Iowa](#) and the [Family YMCA of Black Hawk County](#) to implement a disability-inclusive [Girls on the Run](#) program. The project is funded through the National Center on Healthy, Physical Activity and Disability (NCHPAD).

Registration open

Registration is open for the 43rd Annual Iowa Governor's Conference on Substance Abuse, April 21 and 22, 2020, at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. A pre-conference day of additional training will be offered on April 20.

Registration is also open for the 2020 Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health, April 7 and 8 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Des Moines.

IDPH fast facts

In 2019, as part of the [state opioid response](#), over 2,400 law enforcement officers were equipped with naloxone kits for use in the event they encounter an opioid overdose.